

The Peter Mead House (Breitinger House)  
Pine Brook Road, Toms Point  
Borough of Lincoln Park, Morris County, New Jersey

HABS-NJ-87

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of New Jersey

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Seymour Williams, F.A.I.A., District Officer  
133 Central Avenue, Rahway, New Jersey

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The Peter Mead House (~~alias~~ Breitingger House)  
Pine Brook Road, Toms Point  
Borough of Lincoln Park, Morris County, New Jersey

Owners and occupants: Heirs of Louis Breitingger decd.

Date of Erection: 1793 (see figured ends of iron tie-rods)

Architect: Unknown

Builder: Peter Mead (d. 1831) original owner

Present Condition: Original masonry house transformed by  
later addition of frame third story and double  
deck front verandas

Number of Stories: Three and one-half above front grade  
line

Materials of Construction:

Foundation - brownstone masonry

Exterior walls - original two stories of brown-  
stone ashlar; third story addition frame,  
clapboarded

Interior walls - lath and plaster on wood  
framing

Roof - gable (contemporary with 3rd story) wood  
shingled

Historical Data:

The present condition of this brownstone masonry house, unusual in having two stories above the front grade as built into the hillside site, has not recommended it as desirable for full survey measurement and drawing, the original appearance being destroyed by the addition of the frame third story and the modern double decked front porch. But the figured terminals to the iron tie rods in the upper part of the front masonry wall, remarkable in serving also definitely to date the erection of the original house, make it worthy of record, and have inspired the following account of the history, derived from a search of the title

through successive ownership as recorded in the county archives.

Garret Thomassen Van Riper of Essex County, by will dated 17 February 1761 and proved 23 November next, devised a certain Stone House tract\* of land equally to his daughters Marite wife of Henry Van Winkle and Jannite wife of John Van Winkle, and the homestead "where I live" to his daughter Leah wife of Peter Jacobusse, and to each of the three daughters  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the rest of his lands<sup>(a)</sup>. All the parties are described in other documents as being residents of Newark Township, Essex County, hence the erection of this house in Pequannock Township, Morris County, is not ascribed to any of them, but to Peter Mead, of whom further.

By a deed dated 20 June 1794 and unrecorded but recited in a mortgage dated next day, Peter Jacobus and Jane, widow of John Van Winkle, (all of Newark and mentioned above among the devisees of Garret Thomassen Van Riper, of Newark) conveyed to Peter Mead of Morris County, certain premises lying at Toms Point in Pequannock Township, Morris County, some 150 acres, being parts of 4 lots as shown on a map made by Hessel Peterje in 1771. The land thus conveyed is described in the mortgage as being that devised by Garret Thomassen Van Riper to his daughter Leah Jacobusso, 20.47 acres ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) in the east side of lot no. 3 of upland, 49.30 acres ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) in the east side of lot no. 2, of lowland, 49.30 acres ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) in the east side of lot no. 2 of mountain land, 16.10 acres ( $\frac{1}{3}$ ) in the west side of lot no. 4 of mountain land, the mortgage being for 95 Pounds of New Jersey money.<sup>(b)</sup>

It is deduced from the above mentioned facts of the house bearing the date 1793 in iron figures, one on each of the four tie-rods, and the deed of 1794 conveying the land to Peter Mead, that he had built the house

\*Stone House Plains, on Third River in the northern end of present Bloomfield Twp., formerly part of Newark Twp., Essex Co.

(a) Abstract of will publ. in N.J. Archives, XXXIII, 454

(b) Morris County Mortgages, Bk. D, 104

thereon within a year before he obtained actual possession of the land by deed of conveyance, he being the only party thereto described as thence resident in Morris County.

This Peter Mead of Pequannock Township, by his will dated 14 November 1831 and proved 22 December next, divided his real estate specifically among his heirs, being a daughter Elizabeth widow of Abraham Ryerson, sons Beekman Mead, William Mead and Isaac P. Mead, and brother Isaac Mead, and devised the residue of his lands "together with the buildings where I now live" to the youngest son, William Mead and his heirs.

William Mead, youngest son and devisee of the homestead as above, with his wife Rachel, having removed to New York City, conveyed to James Carmody of same place, by deed of 20 March 1837, all the lands and real estate devised as said, being some 90 acres in Pequannock Township, Morris County, New Jersey.

By deed of 19 June 1855, the widow and two children of this James Carmody, deceased, being of Paterson, N. J., conveyed the same property to Ann Martha Everett of Pequannock Township. The map of that place, published in the Atlas of Morris County, 1868, shows the house here considered, marked "S. Everitt Est.", on the upper side of Pine Brook Road, evidently Samuel Everett, probably husband of the grantee abovenamed.

The property passed from the Everitt heirs to Louis Breitinger of Pequannock Township by deed of 16 January 1902 after proceedings in the Chancery

Court. Mr. Breitingger died at Lincoln Park\*, New Jersey, 18 September 1932, probably in this house, and still in possession of the property, devising his estate to his widow, two sons and three daughters, of whom the first mentioned and one son reside on the house at the present time.

Reference:

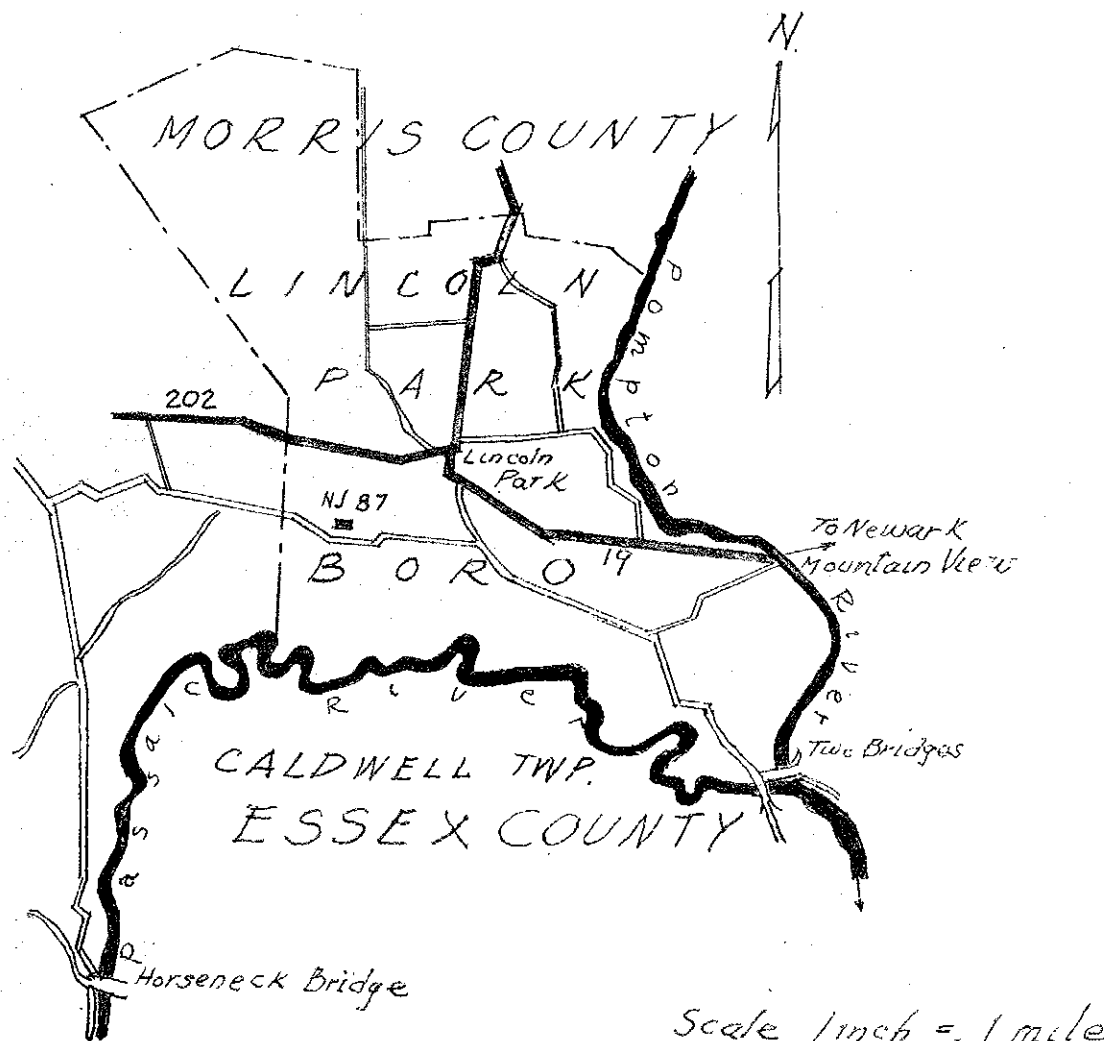
Search of title in land and probate records of Morris County by James Hanlon, H.A.B.S. abstractor, 25 November 1940

*Lewis D. Cook*  
Supervising Historian

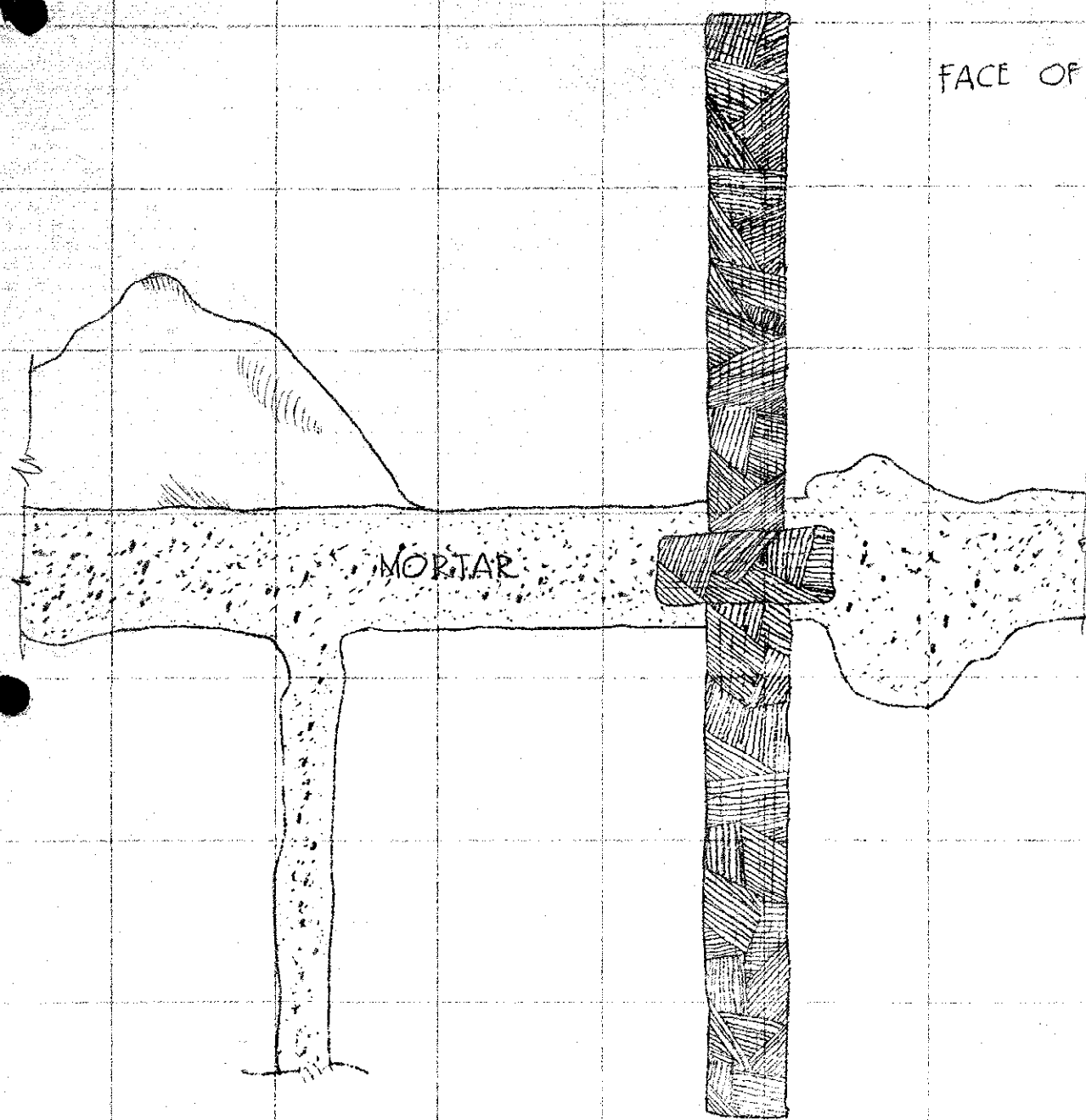
Approved:

*Seymour Williams*  
SEYMOUR WILLIAMS, F.A.I.A.  
District Officer

\* The Borough of Lincoln Park, created from Pequannock Township, Morris County.

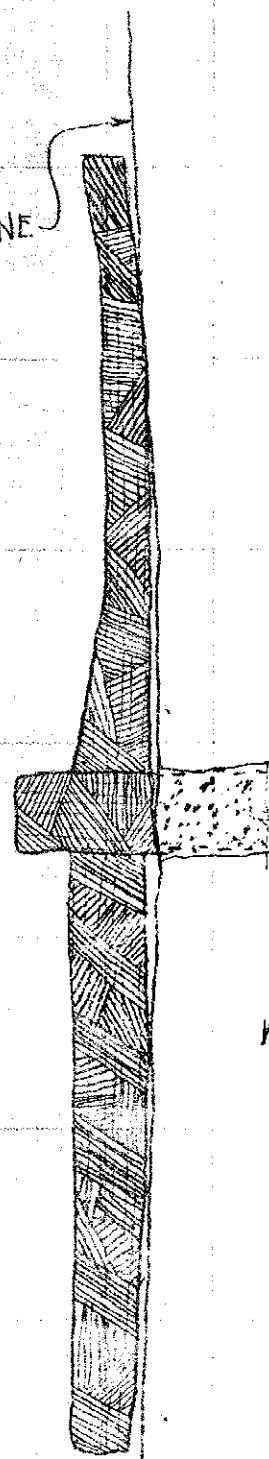


TRACED FROM 1935-'36 ROAD  
MAP OF MORRIS CO., N.J.

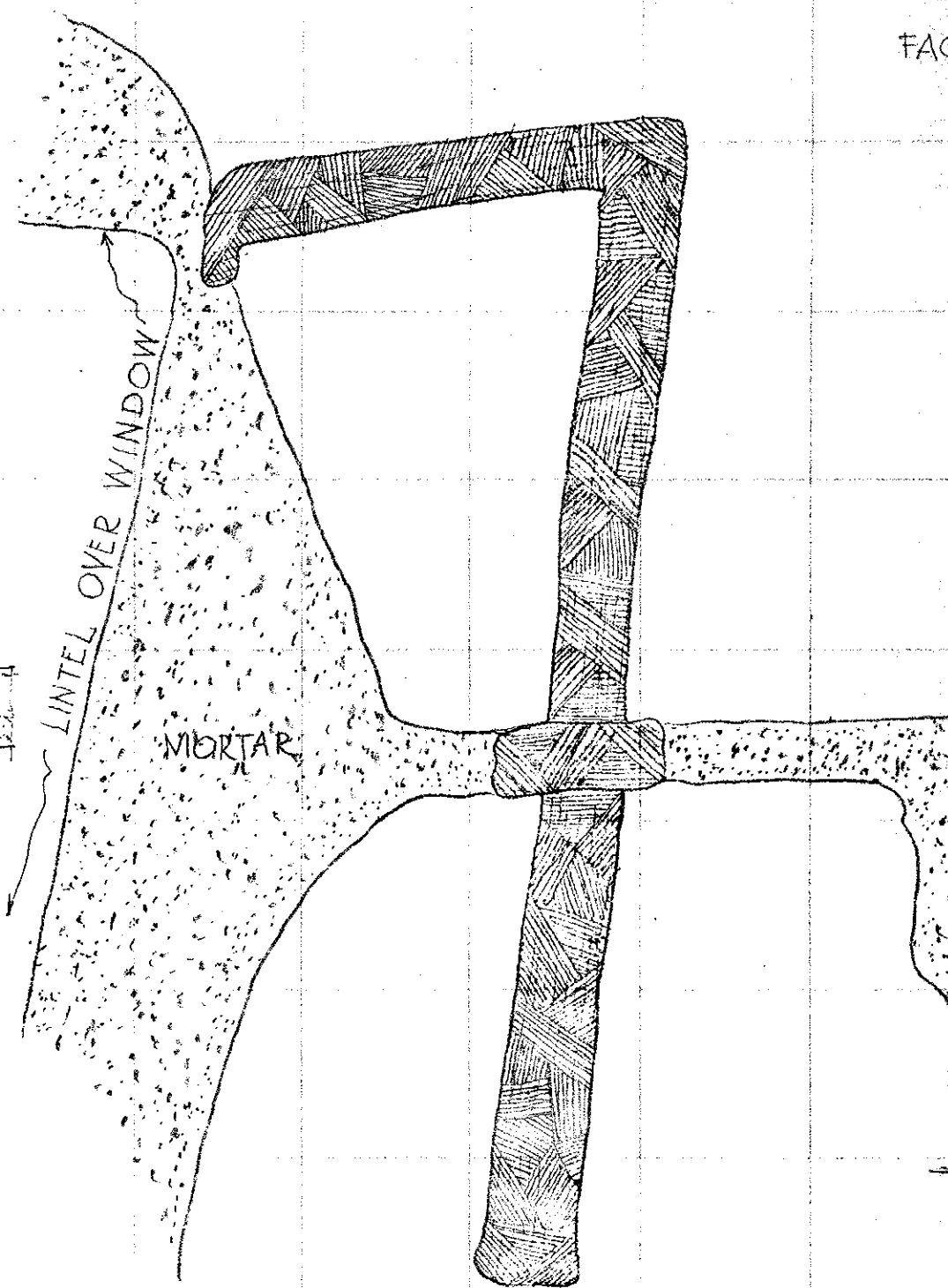


FRONT

FACE OF STONE



SIDE



FRONT

FAC

OF STONE

FACE OF STONE

MORTAR

FRONT

SIDE

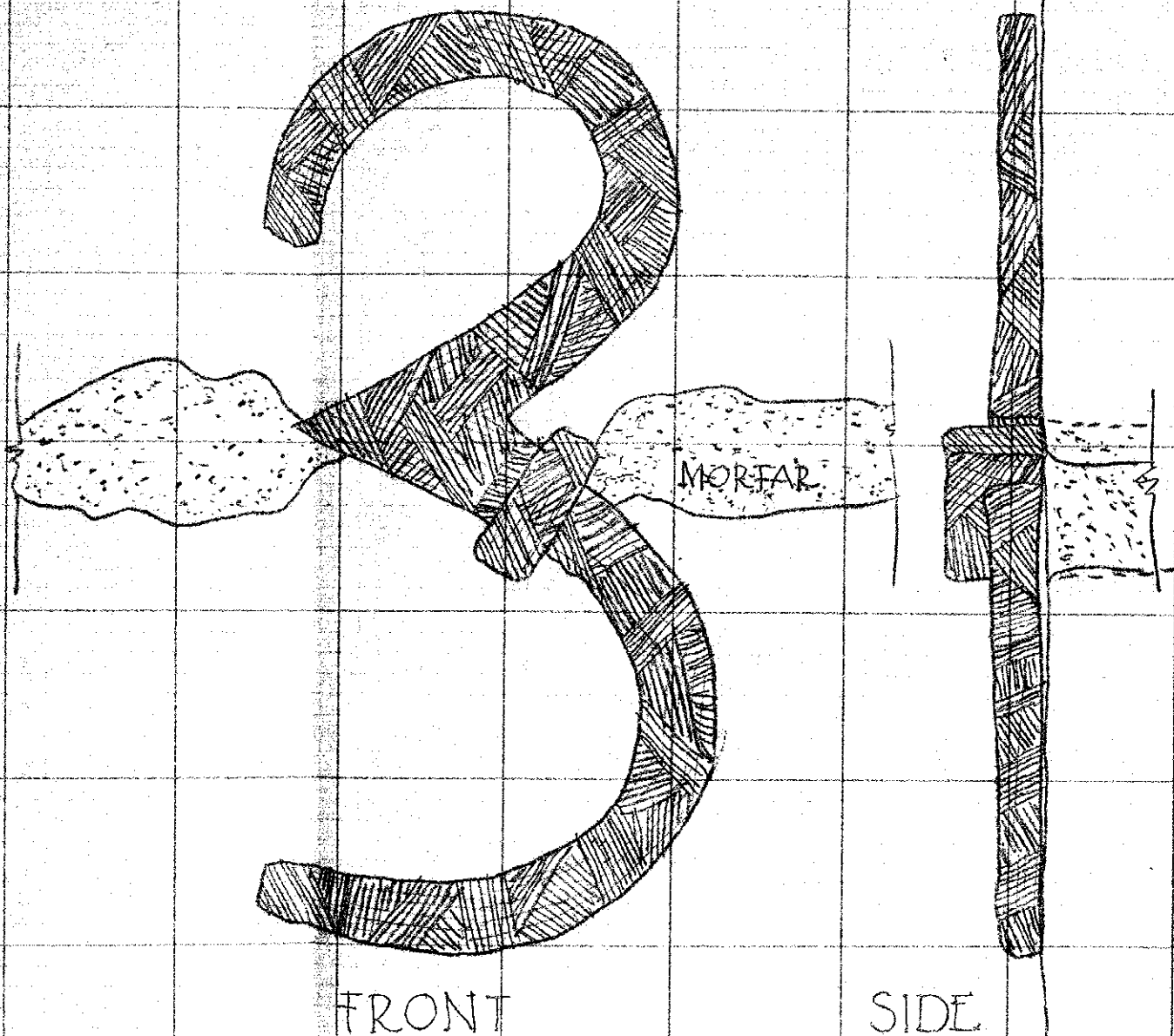
SIDE

FOUR IRON TIE ROD PINS  
FORMING DATE 1793 ON STONES BETWEEN  
HEADS OF 2<sup>ND</sup> STORY FRONT WINDOWS.  
(FROM A RUBBING)

THE PETER  
LINCOLN PARK



FACE OF STONE



THE PETER MEAD HOUSE

LINCOLN PARK MORRIS CO. N. J.

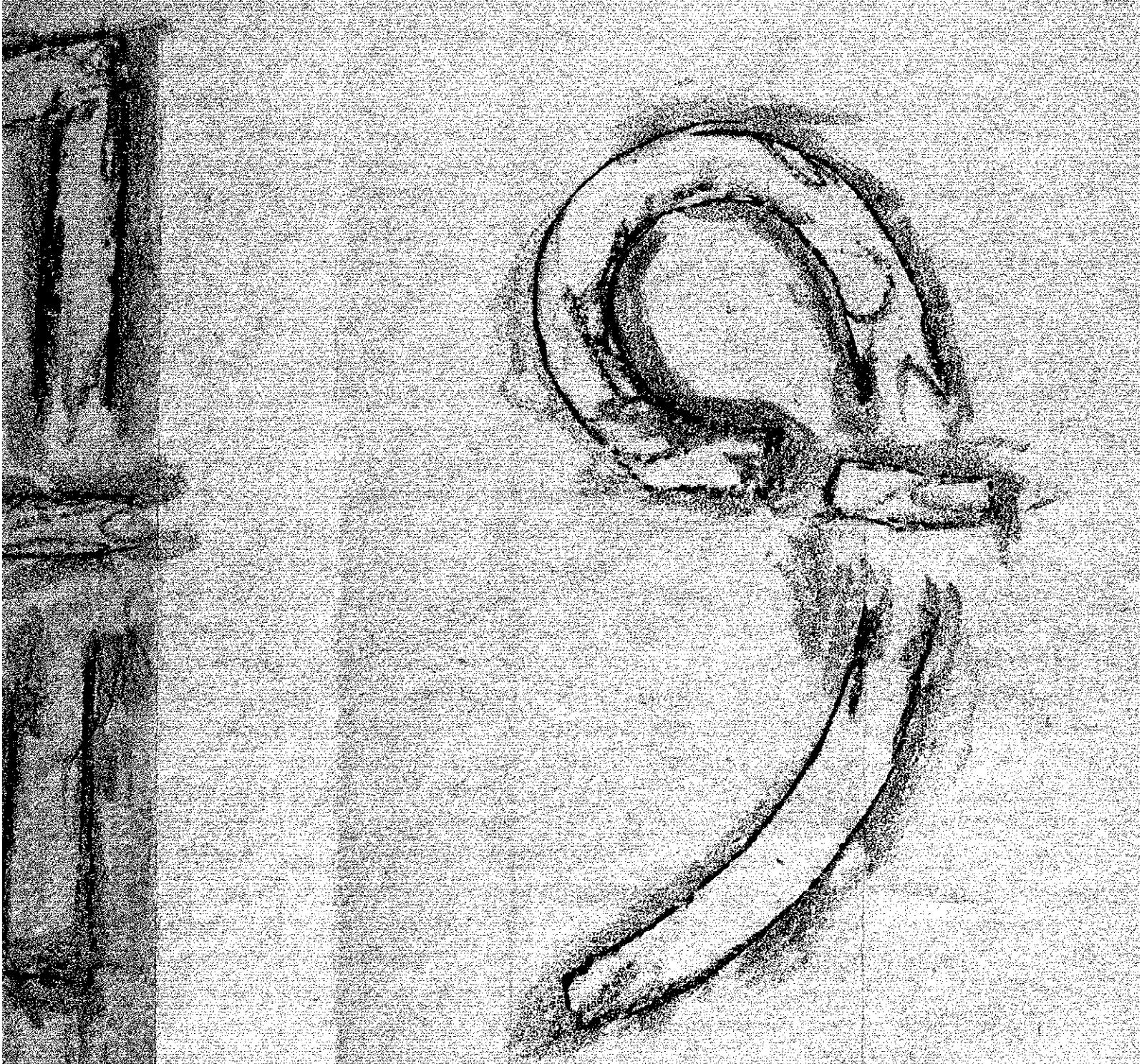
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C. WATSON

MAR. 12, 1938



7-7  
Lovers  
Bride



RUBBING OF .

FOUR IRON TIE-ROD PINS  
forming date 1793 in stones between  
heads of 2nd story front window





THE PETER MEAD HOUSE  
LINCOLN PARK, NEW JERSEY  
C. WATSON MARCH 12, 1936

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